

Can Average Man Player Beat Woman Tennis Star?

That is the Question, and an Answer in Affirmative Angers Fair Sex.

By JAMES S. O'NEALE.

There are three ways one can tell when things on the stove begin to boil without actually seeing them bubble and there is one sure way to make a woman tennis player furious.

That is by suggesting to her, casually and coolly, that in your opinion she is one of the first hundred men tennis players in this country, counting in acknowledged stars who have played in too few tournaments to obtain a ranking, is capable of beating the best woman player.

We propounded the opinion to several female parts of the human race, and that we escaped with our life is due entirely to the driving influence of fear and our long legs. When chivalry goes out audacity rushes in where angels fear to tread, so we'll pursue the question still further, having now no regard whatsoever for our young life, since we have already estranged what milder sex friends we once had.

A Disappointment.

Only one who has reported women's tennis tournaments realizes what a disappointment the play of the women is. Well-meaning friends approach the reporter softly and whisper: "This is a fine thing! Here you go write up the women as playing sensational tennis and all that, and look at 'em! I could beat 'em myself!"

Too true, yet the women hate to admit it. There really is no reason why they should not readily, even cheerfully, agree that the men's game is far more effective than the women's because there are well recognized limitations of women that preclude their playing with the efficiency of a McLaughlin.

We have often wondered why their hesitancy in admitting their inferiority did not spring from the general movement that is bringing about a change in the status of the sex—that is, their desire to be considered equal to men in any respect, even in the physical.

What few women have admitted to us that the hundredth man in such a frigid tone that we immediately experienced that feeling Peary had when he was ten miles away from his base and ice loomed all around. So seldom do men play women singles that a basis for comparison is not exact, and most spectators, seeing women play each other, fail to realize that the splendid strokes speeding down the court would avail little against the determined net play of a man.

Not so long after the close of the women's national indoor championships held in this city in March we had the pleasure of watching a practice match between Miss Mollie Bjurstedt, who had won the singles and doubles titles with ridiculous ease and was at the top of her form, and Allan Behr, a well known local tournament player, who was, however, unranked.

Behr won after three desperate sets. Miss Bjurstedt hates to lose at any and all times, and there was no indication that she was not trying her hardest to win. Behr, avowedly, was out to win.

Easy Prey.

That match, coming after the freely expressed disappointment we heard at the indoor tournament by spectators that they had never before seen the women stars play, plunged us into the long and laborious process of thinking just why, in our opinion, the best woman player would be the prey of any of the first hundred men.

Mrs. Lambert Chambers, who was

Lawn Tennis For Beginners

By J. PARMLY PARET.

Author of "Methods and Players of Modern Lawn Tennis."

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Forehand Strokes Off the Ground.

Among the great variety of strokes that constitute a game of tennis, by far the most important are the forehand strokes played "off the ground."

A forehand stroke is one that is made with the ball on the same side of the body as the playing arm—that is, on the right side for a right-handed player. This is the most natural and easy way to hit the ball, so all players use these strokes by preference whenever possible.

Not only are forehand ground strokes the most important, but also the most numerous during the play, comprising more than half of the entire game. Now, a ground stroke is one made after the ball has bounced from the ground, the term "being used in contradistinction to volleys, which are strokes made before the ball has touched the ground, or, as the boys say in baseball, "on the fly." To volley is to hit the ball "on the fly."

The greatest difficulty that all beginners have to overcome is the tendency to wait for the ball to come to them and then to make a jab at it. It is very difficult to convince any one that it is possible to draw back the racket some time before the ball actually reaches the striking point, but this is necessary in order to make a good back swing that will give the ball speed and direction.

It is even possible to anticipate the stroke so far that a pause can be made at the end of the back swing which will have a tendency to steady the player and increase his accuracy. The danger is that most players hesitate so long before the back swing is started that they begin too late and must of necessity cut it short in order to make the actual forward swing that completes the stroke in time to meet the ball at the only point at which it can be hit.

The average beginner starts with no back swing at all, and standing upright with the racket held a foot or two behind the point at which he expects to meet the ball, waits for it to bound to the proper height and then makes a jerky jab at it with an awkward motion that permits no speed or power and cannot possibly control the direction of the ball with accuracy. This hesitation and reluctance to start the stroke early enough comes from inability to calculate the angle and distance of the ball's bound and the flight itself. Boys who have played other ball games—particularly baseball, "steep-ball" and other games where a bounding ball is used—can make a fair guess as to where the ball will be before the stroke starts. Then confidence will help the player to begin the back-swing in time to gauge the stroke properly. Any beginner can do it if

Four Brooks of Baseball



Lajoie Mathewson Wagner Plank

THE SPORTLIGHT

by Grantland Rice

Who's Next? (Concerning the arrival of Artie Hoffman, Art Devlin and Mike Donlin among semi-pro clans.)

Baseball is still the same old game. In the National League affairs have followed the broad highway of prophecy. Boston, Brooklyn and Philadelphia were picked as the best clubs in the circuit, and they have been 1-2-3 alternately all the year.

But in the American League two clubs picked to finish far out of the jubilee have been playing, by long odds, the best ball in the circuit. The showing made by Washington and Cleveland is the feature of the campaign, and, what is more to the point, there seems to be something substantial back of this rollicking start.

Probably. The first week in May found five ball clubs in the National League and five in the American not a game apart. Isn't this a record for closeness? F. K. J.

Sportive Types. I do not care for Henry Strand; I'd like to see them fine him; For when a foul's caught in the stand, He always hollers "sign him!"

Tris Speaker may not be worth \$50,000 to Boston, but Cleveland wouldn't take a cool million for the Texan, offered on the hoof.

As further proof that anything can happen in baseball, Cobb and Crawford were up eleven times in one game a day or two back without a base hit. This is something beyond a record. It's a miracle.

Re-Echoes.

The five great T's—Time, Tide, Ty, Teddy and Tris. Revenge is said to be sweet. The Giants spent ten years picking on Brooklyn, Boston and Philadelphia. Now see what's happened.

We hear that baseball has changed a lot, and then we read where Red Ames' support cracked in the ninth.

Where Tilly Is.

"What has become of Tilly Shaffer?" writes a fan. The last word we heard of Tilly was from a bunker on the thirteenth hole in the Southern California championship, where, after a fine start, Tilly was taking his eleventh stroke in the trap. Whether he finally emerged or whether he is still shooting from that bunker has not been officially announced.

If faith counts for anything, Brooklyn is out to win her first pennant in sixteen years. We have seen confident ball clubs before, but none that was any more buoyantly uplifted than the Robins. "I have already been in four world series," says Jack Coombs, "and by October I'll be in my fifth." On the other wing, Johnny Evers is equally certain that October will find him in his sixth world championship.

The two Boston second basemen, Evers and Barry, are the only athletes who have fought on five championship clubs.

Steeplechasing Season Should Set a High Mark

Hitchcock, Clark and Others Are Grooming Many Fencers.

Unless the gentlemen of the steeplechasing fraternity have a lot of bad luck this spring the "cross-country" racing about New York the latter part of the month and in June and at Belmont Park, the Terminal, Piping Rock and at Saratoga later in the summer is going to be the best New York has ever witnessed.

Seniors are permitted to ride at Belmont Park, and there has not been a day since the meeting started on May 1, when fewer than fifty horses have not schooled between races. A feature of the daily programme of the Maryland Jockey Club as attractive, almost, as the racing itself.

Young, Sound Horses. These are young, sound horses, too, and Cleveland, who seem to have no idea they were picked to finish sixth and seventh?

HAL CHASE SETS A HOT PACE FOR HITTERS

Not only is leading the league in batting, with a mark of .431, but is the leading long distance hitter as well.

Trailing closely upon the heels of the outworn outlay comes the reliable Jake Daubert, of the Brooklyn Robins, with a mark of .408 to his credit, and Bill Hinchman, the veteran of the Firsts, is not far behind.

The New York Giants have a fair representation in the select circles. Davey Robertson is hitting at a .379 clip, Bill Harden is clouting .342 and Benny Kauff is up there with .313.

George Burns is another New York player who is slugging the leather. His average and that of Hans Wagner are alike, to wit, .333. Steve Yerkes and Ed Konetchy, formerly of the Federal League, now with the Cubs and Braves, respectively, are slugging like wild men and are right up near the top. Yerkes has a mark of .357, while Konetchy's is .347.

These figures include the games played up to and including May 4.

First Basemen of Reds Cleveland Inspires Former Bostonian to New Hitting Vigor.

The sale of Tristram Speaker to the Cleveland Indians may or may not have weakened the Boston Red Sox, but certainly it is that it has not dimmed the batting eye of Speaker. The mighty Texan is out in front of the American League batters, setting a wild pace. He is slugging along at a .364 clip, and showing not the slightest sign of letting up. Hal Janvin, who hits them almost as far as he can throw at times, is running second, according to the latest averages. Jack Henry, of the Senators, ranks fourth, with a mark of .346.

For a short time Tyrus Raymond Cobb lingered among the mere .200 hitters, but it did not take him very long to start his climb toward his accustomed position. This week finds Cobb limping along at a .309 clip, and moving upward steadily. Leslie Numma, batting side the Yankees in their fight for position, is clubbing at a .321 rate, while Joe Gedeon is up close with .290 to his credit.

These figures include the games played up to May 4.

Prize Lists Reveal Wide Scope of Twelfth Annual Exhibition.

Prize lists for the twelfth annual exhibition of the Devon Horse Show Association, at Devon, Penn., on May 30, 31, June 1 and 2, reveal again the scope and thoroughness that has earned for the fixture the title of the "best horse show in America." There are classes for every type of horse and pony, besides competitions for performers on the coach horn; races for polo mounts; working classes for Dalmatian dogs (coach dogs), and a group of classes to be judged by students from agricultural colleges.

Fifty-five breeding classes are listed, five better for horses suitable to be shown hunters; two for thoroughbred stallions suitable for getting hunters; six for trotters; seven for Percherons; six for Clydesdales; six for all heavy draft breeds; six for hackneys; five for Welsh, five for Shetland and eight for all pony breeds.

There are first and second prizes in each breeding class of \$20 and \$10. In the other classes the first and second prizes are cup some of which are of special value and to be competed for until won twice by the same owner.

There are seventeen classes for saddle horses, docked or undocked; forty-two for horses in harness, inclusive of four draft pairs, random, uniform, tandem and road and park teams; twenty for ponies in harness and eleven for ponies under saddle, one of which is for burros.

Hunters and jumpers have twenty-nine classes, aside from many special contests, the latter including two in which children may jump their ponies. There are also five classes for trotter roadsters and four for polo mounts. Five classes for jumpers, in addition, call for officers to ride, one being for the gold challenge cup for army officers to take the jumps in pairs, which is held until next year, when it will be contested by the winners represent.

On the closing day, June 2, the judges will be women in all the classes. The list announced is: Ponies, Mrs. John G. New York, and Mrs. W. A. Lieber, Bryn Mawr, Penn.; polo mounts, Mrs. C. R. Snowden, Bryn Mawr, and Mrs. W. L. Hirst, Haverford; saddle horses, Mrs. J. Stanley Haverford, Haverford, Pa., and Mrs. W. A. Lyttel, White, Wynnewood; harness horses, Mrs. C. A. Munn, Radnor; Miss Louisa Long, Kansas City, and Mrs. C. Cecil Filler, Radnor; Devon show by the regiment the winners represent.

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WORK AHEAD FOR CORNELL CREWS

Ithaca Figure on Hard Battles with Harvard and Princeton.

Ithaca, N. Y., May 6.—Although the high water, rain and high winds have retarded the development of the Cornell crews, the three varsity and two freshman eights are rowing on Lake Cayuga every day now, and are making steady progress. Up to this time the coaches have had few time trials, giving the oarsmen long paddles down to Crowbar and seeking to develop stamina and endurance, at the same time straightening out defects in form.

From now on, however, the varsity eights will be pushed, and many trials are scheduled for the near future. The Cornell coaches are impressed by the showing of the Harvard and Princeton crews in their early races, and are convinced that the Cornell eights will have to hustle to win from the Crimson and Tigers in the races scheduled for next month.

The first change in the varsity eight, since it was organized in February, occurred the other day. Fernow was moved from No. 7 to bow, the seat he held at Poughkeepsie last year. Brower was moved from No. 7 in the junior varsity to No. 7 in the first eight, and Morgan was sent back to bow in the junior eight.

The new rowing order of the varsity follows: Fernow, bow; Bird, No. 2; Lund, No. 3; Andrews, No. 4; Worm, No. 5; Cushing, No. 6; Brower, No. 7; Collyer, stroke, and Chandler, coxswain.

RECORD OF PITCHERS IN NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pitcher and club	Games	Wins	Losses	Av. Am.
Holman, Det.	11	1	0	1.000
Granger, Clev.	1	0	0	0.000
Shuler, St. L.	2	1	1	.500
Shuler, St. L.	2	1	1	.500
Shuler, St. L.	2	1	1	.500
Shuler, St. L.	2	1	1	.500
Shuler, St. L.	2	1	1	.500
Shuler, St. L.	2	1	1	.500
Shuler, St. L.	2	1	1	.500
Shuler, St. L.	2	1	1	.500

RECORD OF PITCHERS IN AMERICAN LEAGUE

Pitcher and club	Games	Wins	Losses	Av. Am.
Fahnestock, Clev.	4	4	0	1.000
Cumbe, Clev.	4	4	0	1.000
Markin, New York	4	4	0	1.000
Markin, New York	4	4	0	1.000
Markin, New York	4	4	0	1.000
Markin, New York	4	4	0	1.000
Markin, New York	4	4	0	1.000
Markin, New York	4	4	0	1.000
Markin, New York	4	4	0	1.000
Markin, New York	4	4	0	1.000

Juvenile Horse Show at Rye Riding School

An equestrian entertainment and horse show has been arranged by Miss Mary Louise Thompson at the Rye Riding and Driving School for Saturday afternoon, May 27, in which all participants will be juvenile riders.

Besides the children's figures and classes there will be a class for saddle ponies to be shown at a walk, trot and canter. There will also be one for polo mounts to be shown at a gallop and to be judged for their speed and ability to play.